

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05

SY-05 OMB-01 EB-07 SR-02 ORM-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 FDRE-00 /080 W
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O 091205Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 238

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NY PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 6090

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJECT: APRIL 9, THE 99TH DAY OF THE OFFENSIVE

REF: PHNOM PENH 6066

1. SUMMARY. DAILY EROSION OF FANK DEFENSES NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH CONTINUED WITH WITHDRAWALS BY THE 80TH BRIGADE AND A ONE KILOMETER KC PENETRATION ACROSS THE NORTHERN DIKE NEAR ROUTE 5. A POSITION AT ANG SNUOL ON ROUTE 4 ALSO RETREATED. THE KC EXPANDED THEIR CORRIDOR DOWN TO THE MEKONG ON THE EAST BANK OPPOSITE THE CAPITAL. CLEARING OPERATIONS HAVE SO FAR FAILED TO REOPEN ROUTE 5 WEST OF SISOPHON AND ROUTE 6 WEST OF SIEM REAP. PREY VENG REPORTED LIGHTER KC ACTIVITY AND LATE WORD FROM KOMPONG SPEU IS OF AN IMPROVED SITUATION DESPITE CONTINUED ENEMY PRESSURE. ELEVEN 105MM HOWITZER ROUNDS AND 14 ROCKETS HIT AT POCHENTONG AIRFIELD AND VICINITY. FOUR ROCKETS ARE REPORTED IN PHNOM PENH LATE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON AND A SIMILAR NUMBER OF UNKNOWN CALIBER HAVE
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HIT MOSTLY IN THE WATER NEXT TO THE PHNOM PENH PORT

THIS AFTERNOON BUT HAVE NOT YET REACHED FANK REPORTING CHANNELS. END SUMMARY.

2 . FANK'S DEFENSES IN AN ARC FROM ROUTE 4 TO ROUTE 5 ARE ERODING DAILY. THE KC FORCED AN UNDERSTRENGTH BATTALION OUT OF ITS POSITIONS NEAR ANG SNUOL. THE CLEARING OPERATIONS TO RETAKE THAT POST MAY BE DIVERTED DUE TO A LATE AFTERNOON GROUND ATTACK, SUPPORTED BY 105MM ARTILLERY, WHICH THE KC LAUNCHED AGAINST THE 23RD BRIGADE SOUTH OF TUOL LEAP. MOVING FURTHER EAST ON THE ARC, AN 80TH BRIGADE POSITION WITHDREW TO A LINE ONLY SIX KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF POCHENTONG AIRFIELD. THE FIELD IS NOW IN RANGE OF 120MM MORTAR, 75MM RECOILLESS RIFLE AND, OF COURSE, 105MM HOWITZER FIRE. THE KC PUSHED KOMPONG SEILA FORCES OUT OF A POST ON THE NORTHERN DIKE AT A ROAD INTERSECTION ABOUT 2 KM FROM ROUTE 5. THE KC THEN ADVANCED A KILOMETER SOUTH DOWN THE ROAD AND NOW THREATEN TWELVE FANK 105MM HOWITZERS AND FOUR 155MM HOWITZERS IN PLACE ALONG ROUTE 5 EAST OF THE PENETRATION.

3. THE KC WIDENED THEIR CORRIDOR DOWN TO THE MEKONG ON THE EAST BANK OPPOSITE PHNOM PENH (REFTEL). THEY FORCED THE PARA BRIGADE TO WITHDRAW TO ROUTE 151 AND FANNED OUT SOUTH OF THEIR INITIAL PENETRATION WHERE A TERRITORIAL UNIT RAN WITHOUT A FIGHT.

4. PREY VENG LOST ANOTHER POST ON ITS SOUTHERN DEFENSE PERIMETER APRIL 8 AND CLEARING OPERATIONS TO THE NORTH AGAIN MADE NO GAINS. KC ACTIVITY LAST NIGHT, HOWEVER, WAS LIGHT.

5. KOMPONG SPEU REPORTS AN IMPROVED SITUATION BUT NOTES CONTINUING KC PRESSURE. THE KC ATTACKED THE TRAINING CENTER AT MIDNIGHT LAST NIGHT.

6. ROUTE 5 AND ROUTE 6 ARE STILL CUT WEST OF SISOPHON AND WEST OF SIEM REAP RESPECTIVELY. BATTAMBANG CITY TOOK SIX INCOMING 75MM RECOILLESS RIFLE ROUNDS.

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7. FOURTEEN ROCKETS AND ELEVEN 105MM HOWITZER ROUNDS HIT AT THE AIRPORT AND VICINITY OVER THE PAST 24 HOURS. FOUR ROCKETS HIT IN PHNOM PENH YESTERDAY AFTERNOON AND A SIMILAR NUMBER OF UNKNOWN CALIBER FIRE LANDED MOSTLY IN THE RIVER AT THE PHNOM PENH PORT THIS AFTERNOON. FANK REPORTING HAS NOT CAUGHT UP WITH THEM.
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